

JAPAN ON THE OCEANS

—
LINES TO ENGLAND, AUSTRALIA AND
INDIA NOW RUNNING.

Captain Seabury of the China Tella of
Twelve New Steamships Bought
to London.

"Japan is evidently aspiring to be known among the nations of the sea," commented Captain Seabury of the Pacific Mail steamer China, in a recent interview after his last trip to the Orient, where the ambitious maritime ventures of the Mikado's subjects are exciting much interest.

"There seems to be no lack of money behind the scheme," continued Captain Seabury. "Though I have nothing definite in the way of figures I am assured by persons in a position to speak authoritatively that the various Japanese lines are subsidized to such an extent that all their running expenses are covered. During my brief stay in Oriental waters steamers of the Nippon Kaisha Company sailed for Europe, for Australia and for Bombay.

"In addition to the vessels already used, twelve more have been secured in London, to be used, I believe, on the line between Japan and England. The length of these vessels, if placed in line one after the other, would just reach a mile, thus giving each steamer an average length of 440 feet.

Regarding the lines to India and Australia I have little information. The vessels which left for these localities during my stay were the first on each line. It is rather early to predict either success or failure for the venture.

"While the various lines are in receipt of the subsidy of course they will get along swimmingly, but how long the subsidy will last no one seems to know. Whether the lines will be able to pay their own expenses soon, or at all, remains to be seen.

"At the same time the Japs seem bent on making a fight for the honor of being known as a great maritime power. If persistency alone will carry the day, they certainly stand a fair chance of succeeding, in a measure at least. In the meanwhile the new enterprise is calling forth much comment in commercial and maritime circles, and its outcome is awaited with no small interest."

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